Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for handling rotor blades of wind power installations, ~~characterised by~~the apparatus comprising: a ~~rigid~~ carrier element ~~(10)~~ connected with at least one rotor blade receiving means ~~(11, 14, 16, 18, 30) fixedly connected thereto~~, wherein ~~said~~ the rotor blade receiving means ~~is in the form of~~ includes a carrier frame ~~(11, 14, 16, 18) which encloses~~ configured to enclose ~~the~~ at least one rotor blade ~~(29) at~~ about at least three sides upon handling.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~further comprising: ~~by~~ a ball rotary joint ~~(12)~~ arranged on the carrier element ~~(10)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterised by~~further comprising: a rotary mechanism drive at the ball rotary joint ~~(12)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised by~~ claim 1, further comprising a plurality of eyes ~~(26) which are~~ mutually spaced in ~~the~~ a longitudinal direction of the carrier element ~~(10)~~ for ~~pulling~~ receiving cables.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the ~~rotor blade receiving means (11, 14, 16, 18, 30) is in the form of a~~ carrier frame ~~(11, 14, 16, 18) which~~ is configured to ~~encloses~~ enclose the at least one rotor blade ~~(29) at three~~ about four sides upon handling.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1, further comprising a locking member ~~(18) is~~ mounted pivotably at one side of the rotor blade receiving means ~~(10, 11, 14, 16)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 ~~characterised~~ wherein ~~in that~~ the rotor blade receiving means ~~(10, 11, 14, 16, 18) embraces~~ is configured to engage the at least one rotor blade ~~(29)~~ in ~~positively~~ a complementary locking relationship.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised by~~ claim 1, further comprising a plurality of cushions ~~(24, 34)~~ provided ~~between~~ throughout the rotor blade receiving means ~~(10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 30) and the rotor blade (29)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 8 ~~characterised by~~ wherein the cushions are inflatable ~~cushions (24, 34)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim ~~9~~8 ~~characterised by~~ wherein the cushions include valves for ~~filling and/or emptying the inflatable~~ inflating/deflating the cushions ~~(24)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 9~~1 or claim 10 characterised by~~, further comprising at least one of an energy storage means, and/or pressure storage means, and/or ~~at least one~~ a plug connector ~~for the connection~~ to connect one of an electrical, and/or hydraulic, and/or pneumatic line, wherein the energy storage means, pressure storage means, or plug connector is used to maintain a first pressure in a plurality of cushions located in the rotor blade receiving means.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4 characterised in that~~wherein the rotor blade receiving means includes at least one carrier bar ~~(30)~~ extending perpendicularly with respect to the carrier element ~~(10)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~further comprising: a carrier plate ~~(32) is~~ releasably fixed ~~releasably~~ to the ~~side of the~~ at least one carrier bar ~~(30), which is remote from the carrier element (10)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 12 ~~or claim 13 characterised in that~~wherein ~~the~~ a cross-section of the carrier bar ~~(30)~~ is variable ~~in~~ over at least one ~~portion~~region.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised by~~further comprising: a device for bolting the apparatus to ~~the~~ a roller head of a crane.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised by~~ claim 1, further comprising a plurality of container corners ~~(20) at~~ positioned on at least one of either the top side and/or the underside of the apparatus.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the carrier element is rigid.

18. (New) A method for securing at least one rotor blade, the method comprising:

placing the at least one rotor blade into a carrier element that is configured to reduce an effect of the wind on the at least one rotor blade, the carrier element surrounding the at least one rotor blade on at least three sides; and

protecting the at least one rotor blade against damage associated with a contact of the at least one rotor blade with the carrier element.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

maneuvering the carrier element toward a wind power installation.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

opening the carrier element to release the at least one rotor blade.

21. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein protecting the at least one rotor blade includes inflating cushions located in the carrier element and substantially around the at least one rotor blade.

22. (New) An apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving at least one rotor blade, the receiving means configured to reduce an effect of wind on the at least one rotor blade when the at least one rotor blade is installed on a wind power installation; and

attachment means for maneuvering the receiving means.